Gram Sevak

OCTOBER 1957

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
14 DEC 1957
RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE

A concrete covered well in a Punjab village.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

But somehow the fact that ultimately everything depends on the human factor gets rather lost in our thinking of plans and schemes of national development in terms of factories and machinery and general schemes. It is all very important and we must have them, but ultimately, of course, it is the human being that counts, and if the human being counts, well, he counts much more as a child than as a grown-up.—Jawaharlal Nehru

GRAM SEVAK

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14 DEC 1957
RURAL EXTENSION

TO MY FARMER FRIENDS

Dear Comrade,

I have been meeting you here, there and everywhere, during the past five years. We have talked also to each other. But these talks have been concerned with problems and situations that emerged on the spot. The Programme has passed by now the first lap of its journey. Five years may be short in the history of a nation such as ours. But it should be long enough for stock-taking and deciding on the direction in which we should travel, if we are to move in tune with current world events.

If you look back, you will recall, no one ever bothered as to how you fared with your crops, your home, health, education, industries, communications or for that matter with anything that concerned you so long as you continued to pay the taxes and raised no law and order problem for the Government. The Government under foreign rule can have no roots in the soil. No wonder therefore, that your importance lay in your being a milch cow who could be milked without payment and without protestations.

The end of foreign rule meant transfer of power to the people of India. People meant primarily the people in our villages, because they constitute the bulk of our democratic electorate. The villages had gone dry with continual drain of the village resources in money, men and materials. If Independence that we won on August 15, 1947, was to be made secure it was of the utmost importance that freedom should be won for the masses of our people. Our village folks, neglected for centuries, had necessarily to become the focus of attention. The Community Development Programme was born, as you know, to provide technical assistance at the door of the people. The Block Headquarters came as a natural decentralisation of the Sub-Division or Tehsil Headquarters with a special mandate that the Government organisation under the new scheme will be subservient to the people instead of the people being subservient to the Government as was the case during foreign rule.

We provided specialists at the Block Headquarters as also the services of a Block Development Officer to co-ordinate the activities of these specialists and to serve as the Chief Executive Officer at the behest of the people in the Block. The Block Headquarters is far off from our villages. Therefore came the Gram Sevak (village-level worker) at your service at the rate of one for a population of 6,000 to 7,000. Where he fails to meet a particular situation he secures adequate technical support from the Block specialists. We provided some nucleus funds to promote development in every sector of your life, on the understanding that these nucleus funds will be supported by your own resources in terms of money, materials and labour.

We have worked so for five years. I am glad to tell you that, with minor exceptions here and there, the programme has made substantial strides in all parts of India. You are no longer afraid of Government apparatus. You have already accepted the Government agency as your own. In fact it is difficult in many places to discover from a crowd who is a Government servant and who is a common inhabitant in a village. The world has given recognition to what you have done combined with the Government agency. In fact, increasing number of people from various countries in the world, especially the under-developed ones such as ours, are coming to India to study what you are doing on this village programme, and how these experiences can be applied in their own lands.

This is good as far as it goes. The question that arises now is whether we have been able through this programme to build up a self-governing and self-propelling institution of the village people such as can continue running this village programme on its own without the major initiative flowing from the Government. I mention this here because the Community Development Programme has to continue for a generation or more if the conditions of life in our villages are to satisfy the minimum standard that is expected for a cultured and civilised existence. There is today a wide gulf as you know in the standard of life between the urban areas and the villages. Unless this gulf is bridged, the towns and cities will continue to attract the cream of our manpower in villages. Such a course will only add to the impoverishment of our villages. If we are to avoid this we have to work hard and move fast in creating facilities in the rural areas which will make it possible for our educated village people to earn their livelihood and to live in the villages.

An analysis of our performance clearly reveals that a self-governing and self-propelling village institution is still to come. How do we get about it? That is the crucial question we face today. Our panchayats and our co-operatives till now have been torn with internal strifes and self-centred motivation. Our leadership in the villages in the hey-day of our civilisation in India was based on the sacrifice of individual self-interest to the service of the many. In the course of time this has given place to individual self-aggrandisement at the expense of the many. How do we reverse this vicious trend in our body politic?

The farm leaders' camps which we have inaugurated in all parts of India from early October have been designed to be the pioneering corrective. Let me explain this matter a little further. You know, agriculture constitutes the basic industry in India. Our soil, our waters and the sky above us are as good as those in any other part of the world. Our farmers have been rated amongst the very best in the world. Why is it then that we should be in chronic deficit in our food supply? Why is it that we have to beg others to feed us?

In our villages, you know, there are a number of farmers who grow at least double the average production per acre in the village. The Krishi Pandits who have grown more than ten times the average per acre in India are from amongst these farmers. Our annual production in India is so hopelessly low today that even a little attention in matters such as improved seeds, compost and green manure, line sowing and inter-culture and efficient use of the limited supply of water should increase our production by more than 50 per cent if these various steps can all be judicially combined. Why should it be difficult for the 95 farmers in a village to do what 5 are achieving in same climatic and soil conditions? Our slogan therefore should be to grow "Three blades where two grow today". If we could do this our food shortage will be a story of the past. Indeed we shall have a surplus with which we can earn enough of foreign exchange to pay for the heavy machinery we need from abroad to produce the steel, the cement, the coal you require so urgently.

The farm leaders' camps have been designed to bring the progressive farmers from each village in a Gram Sevak circle for a seminar in which they can discuss their individual practices and evolve a programme which can extend to every farmer in every village in

the area. The Government organisation will be there working along-side to demonstrate, in an organised way, practices which are easy to adopt. They will assist in the formulation of village-wise programmes as against individual programmes we have handled till now. The progressive farmers are expected at the end of the seminar to go back to their villages, organise farmers' clubs which will become live institutions taking up programmes of agriculture for the village as a whole on behalf of the panchayat. If this experiment succeeds, and succeed it must, we shall follow the same practice in respect of all other subjects of village development.

You will readily see that what we are aiming at is to provide a new functional bias to village politics. In other words, we visualise that in the future only such individuals will be thrown up by the village people as their representatives in panchayats and co-operatives who will have excelled themselves in their professions, and who will be prepared to dedicate themselves to the extension of the same practices to the others in the village who are less developed than themselves. When such a development has taken place we shall see our villages humming again with 'all for one and one for all'. Institutions of people will then develop from the village upwards and we shall have functional unions at the Block level setting up their own representatives. They will combine to organise, and operate the local self-government unit at the Block level. The same feature should repeat at the District level. This cannot but have significant repercussions on State Legislature and the Parliament. The unholy crusade which eats into the soul of our nation in the name of language, religion and political theories based on jargons will then disappear from the scene. We will have people's institutions representing diverse interests in life using the Government apparatus as its servant, as against the "master" the apparatus has been heretofore.

I have spoken to you at length. This has been so, because in the troubled world of today our very existence is at stake unless you understand where you are and where you ought to be, unless you know how to use the Government apparatus for forging your own institution in which you can function as the "Born Sovereign".—*From a Farmer's Son*

GRAMDAN

Gramdan brings a new set of ideas on land reform, Communal ownership of some land in the village, the possibilities of co-operative farming untramelled by ownership problems, a village democracy through gram sabhas to decide agricultural policy—these linked with village industries and basic education, might offer a solution where others have failed. Certainly it has started working in Orissa and parts of the South and when co-ordination with the community development movement grows closer, gramdan villages might have a more impressive record to offer than non-gramdan. More than 3,000 villages have already been donated, reports say, and the land collected amounts to more than 4.5 million acres. But can this method, relying greatly on self-denial and voluntary co-operation, succeed? It will be a signal achievement if it does. At least it offers a serious alternative method of achieving the main objects of a land policy—social justice and production—**The Statesman.**

A NEW STRAIN OF PADDY

This interesting article relates the story of research carried out by our contributor on a new strain of paddy. It is hoped that the expectations from this strain will be fulfilled in the careful tests that are now under way.—Ed. G.S.

R. BALCHANDRA PANICKER

GRAM SEVAK, CD BLOCK
Mavelikara, Kerala State

I am going to tell you an actual story of a new strain of paddy—B.R. No. 1 or Balachandran's Research No. 1—originated from a single seed some four years back.

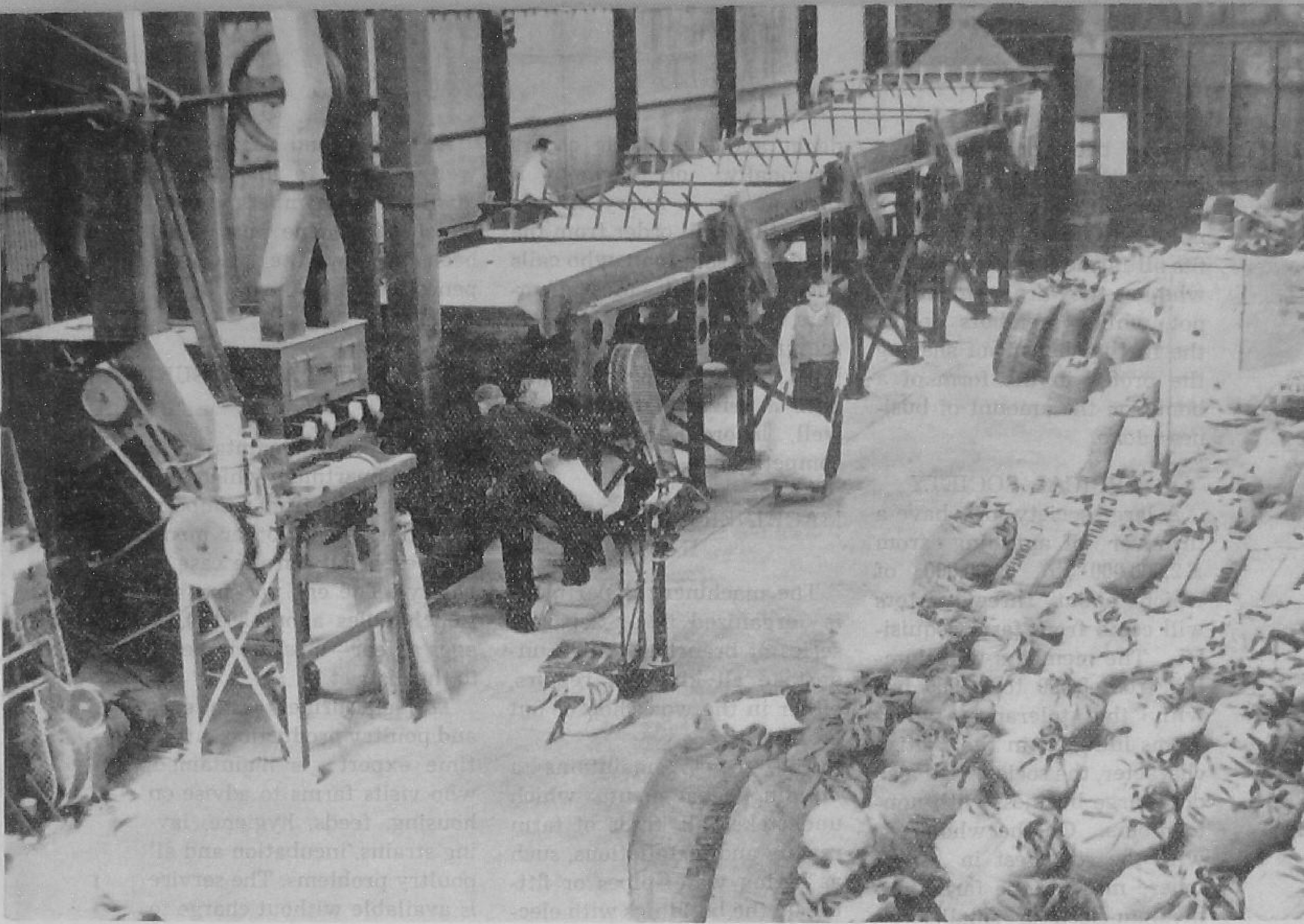
From 1953 onwards, I have been working in the Mavelikara Block. It was a period when Kerala was experiencing great scarcity of rice the staple food of the people. So our aim was to develop agriculture especially paddy cultivation. With that aim in view some interested ryots were selected at random and "Demonstration plots" were started for the newly introduced Japanese Method of paddy cultivation using "U.R. 19" a superior quality seed suitable for the second crop. Timely application of organic and inorganic manures were also included and pest and disease control methods were also given due importance. In this maiden attempt we won the confidence of the ryots and succeeded in spreading of new programmes among the villagers. Thus we became their close friends and guides in all extension activities.

Here in Kerala, we raise two paddy crops every year, one during April to July and the other during August to January. The first crop is cultivated with the short duration variety and the second with the long duration variety. Like "U.R. 19" there was no improved strain of paddy to replace the indigenious variety for the first crop to step up production. So my attention was focussed to find out a new strain of paddy with all the good qualities. My practical experience in a Government Paddy Research Station for six years gave me enough technical and practical knowledge in the new venture.

One fine morning in the month of August 1954 my dream came true. A clump of paddy which sprouted from a single paddy seed was found in a colocassia bed at Muttam near Mavelikara in an unnoticed corner of a field border with its five tillers bearing five extraordinarily long earheads of 250 to 281 grains in each earhead. The earheads were then not in the fully ripened stage. But out of curiosity and overwhelming joy one earhead was immediately plucked by me from the mother plant and examined. Then proper arrangement was made to get the other earheads fully matured. But a Satan came in the way. A quadruped had swallowed the whole bunch. I was very much grieved when I heard of its tragic end a day after the incident. All the same I was not wholly unlucky. The one earhead I had plucked was properly dried, tested and kept for the next favourable season.

On April 14, 1955 the seeds of this new strain named as "B.R. No. 1" were first dibbled in the field by me. Even here the "Black Cloud of Misfortune" hovered around it. Seeds from six pits were totally destroyed by rats. Only seedlings from the balance of twenty pits survived. Out of all the tides

(*Continued on page 8*)



CO-OPERATION HELPS BRITISH FARMERS

J. A. B. Hamilton

The multi-purpose farmers' co-operative societies in Britain can supply farmers with feeding stuffs, fertilisers, equipment and much else, and purchase their eggs, poultry and grain; in fact the largest societies are able to supply practically everything required on the farm.

Nothing of the kind was foreseen when the farmers' co-operative movement started in the latter part of the last century. It started with a few small societies for the purchase of feeding stuffs and fertilisers. Their primary object was to protect the farmer against the excessive prices charged by merchants, but instead of separate organisations being formed for each purpose, as has happened in most other countries, these societies gradually began to purchase first one essential for the farmers' needs, then another. Thus the multi-purpose society came into existence.

The movement made no great headway until after the end of World War II, but since then it has been going ahead fast. The effect has

always been to bring down prices—known to be higher in parts of the country where no society exists. It thus benefits all farmers in the locality, whether they are members or not, while members derive the further benefit of sharing the profits in the form of a bonus on the amount of business done.

A TYPICAL SOCIETY

A large society may have a turnover of anything from £2,000,000 to 8,000,000 of which about three-quarters will come from farm requisites. The members will number from 3,000 to 10,000 but with the tolerance which seems inherent in the British character, the society will also do a large business with non-members. On the whole, it will be strongest in areas where most of the farms are medium-sized or small.

Let us take a typical large society, with some 20 depots serving an area of about 4,000 square miles. Each depot holds large stocks of animal foods, but much of this goes in lorry-loads direct from the mill to the members' farm. The society has several mills for grinding its own mixtures, but it also sells those manufactured by outside firms, as some farmers prefer these.

Each branch has a sundries department, which sells rakes, brooms, wire-netting, binder twine, gumboots, paint, trough, ladders, poultry-houses, to mention only a few items. These are delivered in the society's lorries along with the feeding stuffs.

Members may visit the depot and give their orders personally, or telephone if they are in a hurry. More often they will order from the travelling salesman, who calls once a fortnight. Most members will buy the bulk of their requirements from the society but they often like to deal with a private merchant as well, in order to encourage competition.

MACHINERY AND BUILDING

The machinery department is organized in a separate series of branches, which undertake all kinds of repairs, either in the workshop or out on the farm.

The society maintains a building department, which undertakes all kinds of farm repairs and installations, such as laying water-pipes or fitting up the buildings with electricity. Other services include spreading lime and the spraying of crops against pests and weeds. For farmers who prefer to do their own spraying, the society supplies both the outfit and the liquid.

Another department sells tractor fuels—petrol, paraffin and diesel oil. The society does this as agent to one of the large distributors, who have found that their sales to farmers have nearly doubled since they deputed the business to the society. For one thing, the society gives much prompter deliveries than any rival distributor, and a farmer who runs short knows that he needs only telephone to be sure of a further supply within 24 hours at most.

All goods and services, as well as sales to this society, qualify for members' bonus, which for some years has been at the rate of eightpence in the £—nearly 3½ per cent.

PURCHASING AND INSURANCE

The Society maintains a buying department which will purchase grain from members, often for sale to other members, especially in the case of barley. The egg packing station handles about 50,000,000 eggs a year—most of the eggs in the district.

To help farmers with eggs and poultry production, a full-time expert is maintained, who visits farms to advise on housing, feeds, hygiene, laying strains, incubation and all poultry problems. The service is available without charge to members and non-members alike, and apart from the value of the advice given, it has had a useful effect in building up goodwill.

Two final examples will show the variety of the society's operations. Its insurance department enables members to insure their buildings, machinery and livestock against mishap of all sorts, while the veterinary shop sells every kind of medicine likely to be required by livestock. The chemist in charge is not a qualified veterinary surgeon and cannot therefore give treatment, but his visits have given many farmers a better understanding of how to look after their livestock.

Bat-Chit

Villager: Gram Sevak Sahib, last time you told me how to build up the fertility of my fields. Is there anything new which you can suggest to me about the cultivation of the crops?

Gram Sevak: There are many useful methods which you can follow though all of them are not necessarily new. As you know in agriculture, it is important that everything should be done in time.

Villager: There is nothing new in it. We know If we do not cultivate our crops in time, we do not get anything to eat.

Gram Sevak: You are right. Now I was talking to you about the main principles of good cultivation. Some of these are:

(a) use of sound, selected and good seeds for sowing;

(b) good preparation of the field for sowing;

(c) quick and timely sowing in the lines;

(d) Good weeding and good interculture;

(e) top dressing with fertilizers at the proper time.

Villager: Wait a minute please. Let me try to follow what you say. I understand that these principles are good for all the crops but does not a particular crop need particular treatment?

Gram Sevak: You are right. They do need particular care. Let me first tell you about paddy crop which you mostly grow in your village. The important care that the cultivation of paddy needs is selection and treatment of seeds, raising of seed bed including its manuring, preparation of the field for transplanting, manure and fertilizers to be applied before transplanting, spacing, weeding and interculture, control of diseases and white ant, planting method, irrigation, top dressing and so on.

Villager: It is quite a heavy list. I suppose new methods mean harder work.

Gram Sevak: And greater yield too.

Villager: What about maize and Bajra?

Gram Sevak: Both these crops need as much attention as paddy does but are easier to grow. In both these crops you need good seed, heavy fertilization, line sowing, thinning, weeding, control of pests and diseases.

Villager: Thank you Gram Sevak Sahib for the useful suggestions. The other day our Mukhiya attended a village leaders training centre and he was told that we can make two blades of grass grow where one grows now. Is it really true? Can we have two crops or three in a year? You know I cannot accept it unless we really grow these crops.

Gram Sevak: Of course you can.

Villager: But how?

Gram Sevak: Let me tell you. You can start with growing the early maturing varieties of crops. Then you require new or better implements which will enable you to prepare soil for sowing earlier. For example, instead of ploughing the rubi land 8 to 10 times with your present plough, you can reduce the number of bullock days required for preparing the land if you use the mould board plough. Similarly the use of green manuring reduces the number of bullock days required for the preparation of the paddy fields. Better water lifting devices such as oil engine pumps, persian wheels etc. can reduce the pressure on bullocks, lift more water per hour and make the irrigation of larger area possible.

Villager: Gram Sevak Sahib, will you tell me something about the cash crops? I have been growing some of

these but I find a number of difficulties. Firstly, they require more money in the beginning which I cannot afford. Even after having grown them, I am told, I do not get all the return which is due to me because I cannot send the stuff to the main market which is about 40 miles away from here.

Gram Sevak: I quite see your point. As for the investment, you can borrow money from the Co-operative Society but you will have to be careful that you repay the loan to the Society in time. For your marketing problem the Society will look after it and you can be sure that you will get the best price available at the time for your cash crops. Then you have your Panchayats which can help you a great deal.

Villager: How?

Gram Sevak: It can help you this way. It can repair in time the common irrigation works. It can settle land and water disputes. It can control the village cattle and prevent them from damaging the crops. It can lay down the minimum standard of cultivation for the principal crops.

Villager: Thank you Gram Sevak Sahib. I shall try to follow and practice all that you have said. When we meet next time, I am sure you will have something new and useful to tell me about as usual.

Gram Sevak: I must thank you too. I shall of course be happy to be of any help to you.

A NEW STRAIN OF PADDY

(*Continued from page 4*)

and storms these twenty clumps began to respond properly to the manures and other favourable conditions of the nature. It attracted the attention of many ryots for all its features than any of the local varieties grown in this area. Tillers began to sprout abundantly breaking existing records of all short-duration varieties. From 14th April to 8th July the plants grew luxuriantly, reaching an average height of five feet. One clump of B.R. No. 1 produced a maximum of 20 healthy earheads like the mother plant within the short period of 125 days under naturally controlled conditions. The yield of this variety is estimated to be double the quantity of the local short-duration varieties. The seed rate is fixed at 48 lbs per acre for dibbling method. The second trial was also conducted in the same field next year in the same season and found to be equally successful. So the seeds obtained now were supplied to five interested ryots in selected places having different soil conditions to note the difference if any and to gather public opinion. The result was highly encouraging. From my experience it is noticed that this variety takes only 115 days in clayey soils as against 125 days in sandy areas for the same method of cultivation.

When my "B.R. No. 1" demonstration plot was in the earhead stage it was officially visited by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Food Production, Kerala State along with the Research Officer, Paddy Research Station, Kayamkulam to note its specialities and chalk out a plan. He was very much pleased with the work. He was also convinced of the superior qualities of this strain. He discussed with me and the Research Officer and finally decided to conduct trial cultivations in the Government Research Stations at Pattambi, Trichur, Monkompu and Kayamkulam and mass cultivation at Bharaṇikkavoo and Karunagappally. We have also decided to select interested ryots here and there in the Block area and in the area of its present cultivation.

I hope this new strain of paddy will revolutionize paddy cultivation in South India and the people will cooperate with the Department of Agriculture in the propagation of this new variety to every nook and corner if possible.

HAMARA DESH

A TOTAL area of 3,000 acres in the catchment region of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Meerut and Bulandshahar districts of Uttar Pradesh will be treated for soil conservation work in 1957-58. Of this, 1,000 acres will be prepared and afforested by sowing or planting suitable species of tree. Another 2,000 acres are to be prepared this year for afforestation in 1958-59. Nurseries also being set up in 1957-58 over an area of 10 acres for growing plants for use in afforestation of the area. The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 3 lakhs, for which Central assistance to the extent of the entire amount—Rs. 96,250 as subsidy and Rs. 2,03,750 as loan—will be available to the U.P. Government in 1957-58.

LANDLESS PEASANTS

A pilot scheme has been formulated to resettle landless agriculturists on the Bhoodan land in Bihar on a co-operative basis. Resettlements will be made on suitable blocks of 75 to 100 acres, and it is proposed to settle 25 families on each of 10 such blocks. The Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs for resettlement of these families.

TRAINING

Five Indian teachers belonging to agricultural and veterinary institutes in Madras and Kerala have been selected for advanced training in Tennessee University in the U.S.A. This University has a working arrangement with agricultural and veterinary educational institutes in India for training of Indian teachers abroad for a year.

GAUSHALAS AND GOSADANS

In 1957-58, eighty-five new *gaushalas* will be developed, in addition to 72 taken up last year. Figures for setting up of *gosadans* in 1956-57 and 1957-58 are 14 and 20 respectively.

The second Plan provides for development of 346 gaushalas and setting up of 60 gosadans during 1956-61. Each gaushala will have a number of animals of improved breed. Subsidies will be given for raising selected progeny from these animals. For purchase of ten pure-bred cows and one high-quality bull for a gaushala, to be developed in 1957-58, and for continuation of aid to a gaushala in Dibrugarh, a consolidated grant of Rs. 12,250 has been approved for Assam. A sum of Rs. 1.87 lakhs has been sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh for continuation of assistance to eight gaushalas and development of additional 20 gaushalas in 1957-58. Out of this, Rs. 2,400 are for rearing 40 calves and Rs. 12,000 for maintenance of pure-bred herds. Bombay State will get an aid of Rs. 18,000 for continuance of two gosadans of 750 cattle each and establishment of another at Lakhpat with 500 cattle. To enable Kerala State to develop two gaushalas, a grant of Rs. 17,100 has been sanctioned. Orissa will get an aid of Rs. 12,500 for development of a new and continuation of two gaushalas. For development of eight new and continuation of seven gaushalas, Rajasthan was sanctioned a grant of Rs. 78,310 last year. This amount was spent to meet part of the cost of 80 pure-bred cows and 8 stud bulls, purchased for the gaushalas.

How the Dream came True

B. R. Kumar

IT WAS the beginning of India's First Five Year Plan. The community development movement had started taking shape. A *pucca* structure was coming up brick by brick, in a remote village of what was formerly known as the princely State of Rampur now merged in Uttar Pradesh. Shafiq, a progressive farmer of Saidpur had heeded the advice of Block authorities that "more Panchayats meant cheaper justice", and had in consequence, agreed to build a *pucca* Panchayatghar under the common roof of which the Hindus and the Muslims, the Harijans and the high born, could thrash out their differences under the eye of village elders.

There were then many in the village who had doubted the wisdom of Shafiq's action in listening to Block workers who they believed were now roaming about the countryside in an endeavour to find some new means of extracting money from the people. All planning, they said, was aimed at making *kutcha* roads and *kutcha* houses *pucca,* so that the village could look like a city and thus give a pretext to the Government to impose new taxes. Muslims thought that Shafiq was constructing a mosque so as to endear himself to the Muslim population of the village and thus obtain the Nawabhood of the village for himself; now that the authority of the Nawab of Rampur had ended following the merger of his State with Uttar Pradesh. But when the structure after coming up a few feet did not look like a mosque, people thought it might as well be a temple so that the Hindus of the village may vote for Shafiq at the next elections.

But in spite of all this the work on the structure went on till the roof was laid and the walls white washed for the formal opening ceremony. And one fine morning, the newly elected Gram Panchayat held its first sitting in the Panchayatghar. Cases came to the Panchayat and were decided to the satisfaction of all, bringing justice to the very door steps of the people and at almost no cost.

This was a signal for the people to begin a new life—to better their lot by their own initiative and resourcefulness. And when the Uttar Pradesh Government launched there fortnight last January, villagers came forward as one team to build up a 3-mile long *kutcha* road to connect Saidpur with the main road. The road was later metalled by the State Government.

The village produce which the villagers were selling at a nominal price to the *Baniyas* of Rampur on account of the high cost of moving it to the market, was now being carried to the Mandi, by kisans themselves who on return were bringing back better clothes, and brighter utensils and increased contentment and economic security for the family.

The village now has a Gandhi *Chabutra* for open air meetings and village festivities, a dispensary run by the Panchayat and above all an enlightened peasantry such as the India of today is striving for to build.

"If you wonder how to do a job, get started and wonder how you did it."—Goethe.

Agriculture Extension Worker admiring the quality of wheat crop raised by a U.P. farmer.

A Bombay-village housewife lighting the smokeless chulha in her kitchen.

THE H

THE

havi Panchayat leaders discuss their problems with the B.D.O.

Road-building through Shramdan

E AND

ELD

Bumper crop.

come popular with Orissa villagers.

A crowded village dispensary at Bhavi

A Girl's School in a Community Development Village in Assam.

Prizes for Gram Sevaks

IN ORDER to provide incentive and encouragement to the village level workers, the Ministry of Community Development has decided to formulate a scheme for a prize competition among them. The scheme as finally approved is as follows:

All the Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas are entitled to enter the competetion on paying a fee of 8 annas each. The important items of work which would qualify for the competition should relate to the economic side of our programme, such as food and other agricultural production, animal husbandry, village industries and co-operation.

The Development Commissioner, in consultation with the concerned head of Department, is to select 8 to 10 important items of work for, competition suitable to every distinct region of the State.

Such items are to be related to the season over which the competition takes place, i.e., for period of about 6 months from a given point of time.

The judgement would take place at four stages;

(a) at the Block level;
(b) at the District level;
(c) at the State level;
(d) at the National level.

At the Block level the Committee of judges would consist of the B.D.O. and another officer of the Block team chosen by him and two non-official members of the Block Advisory Committee appointed by that Committee for the purpose. This Committee would examine the performance of each VLW entrant by actually visiting his circle and judge the best one among them.

At the District level the committee would be constituted with Collector as the chairman and one District head of Department, chosen by him, and 2 non-official members of the District Advisory Committee, nominated by that Committee for the purpose. This Committee would judge the best VLW for the whole district out of those selected as best at the Block level. This Committee would also actually visit the circle of the best VLW in each of the Blocks and judge the best one amongst them.

At the State level, there would also be a Committee with Development Commissioner as the Chairman, one State head of the Department chosen by him and two M.L.As. This Committee may, on the basis of the recommendations of the Collectors and by field inspection of the concerned few circles, judge the best VLW at the State Level.

At the National level, there will be a Committee in the Ministry of Community Development, presided over by the Secretary of the Ministry, one of the Advisers, and two MPs. This Committee may call the best VLWs of the States for a personal interview at Delhi, where their mental make up and suggestions as to the improvement of the programme would be judged. It would also be possible to test how he reacts to a given practical situation and what understanding he has acquired of the problems. The Committee may visit each of the circles of the best VLWs and judge whose performance can be considered the best.

(3) The Committee may combine both the methods to arrive at a final decision, if they so desire.

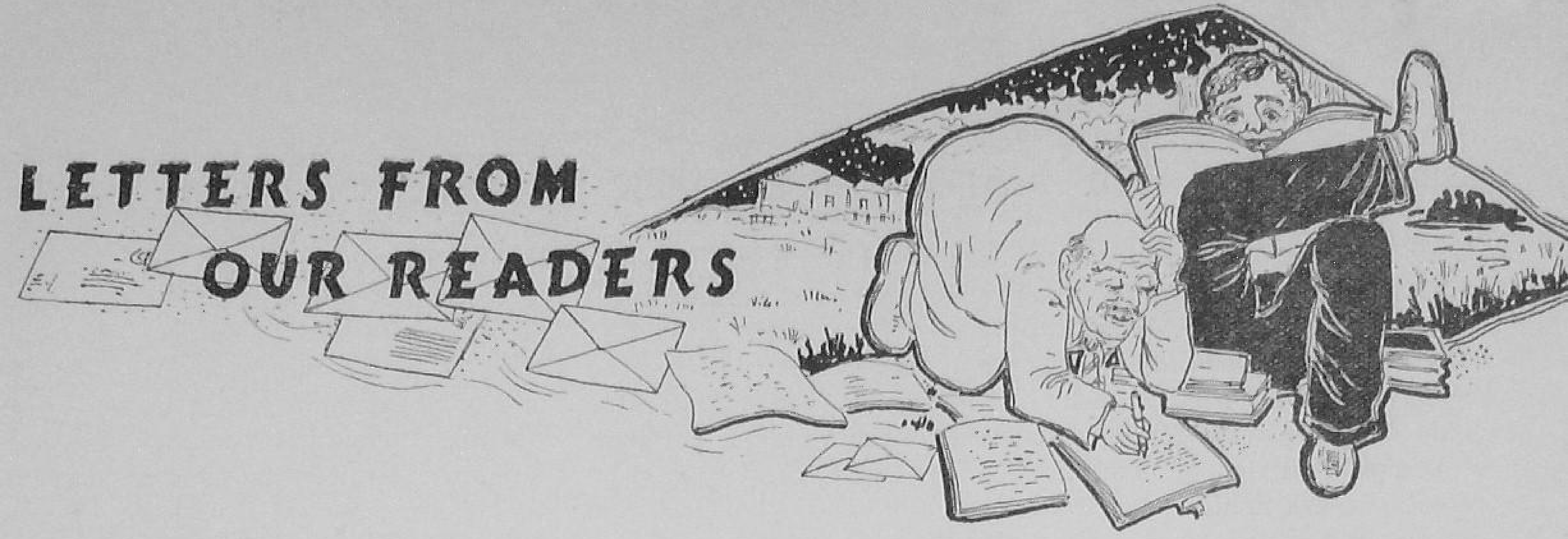
Prizes :

The motor-cycle offered this year as the first prize is a gift from the West German Government to the Prime Minister Shri Nehru. The VLW considered best at the National level will receive as prize a motor cycle or a scooter. He will also be considered for promotion to the higher post of Block Extension Officer, which may be suitable according to his background.

Each of the best VLWs in each of the States (except the one judged best at the National level), will be given a motorised bicycle with a small petrol engine attached to it.

The best VLW in each District (except those adjudged best at the National and State level), will receive an ordinary bicycle as a prize.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS



DISAPPOINTED

Sir,

If any one of your readers wants to know how the villagers lose confidence in their Gram Sevaks, here is one personal experience. Once a Match Unit expert of All-India Khadi and Village Industries' Board came to our Block and selected one of my villages for starting a Match Unit and many of my village friends took initiative in it and selected a building which we got repaired. Since there was no money in the village Society, we borrowed from the Taluk multi-purpose Co-operative Society for the same. We were then asked to contribute Rs 100 towards getting the excise license. This was done. When everything was ready for starting the Match Unit we were suddenly told that it could not be done there. The unit was shifted to the Taluk headquarter which has already got three Match Units, an Oil Ghana Unit, a Soap unit and one Amber Charkha Parishramalaya. You can imagine the disappointment of my village friends. They were hoping that the starting of the Unit would mean gainful employment for some of them at least, but all their hopes have been shattered. To me personally, it is a great disappointment because I find it extremely difficult to enthuse the villagers about anything new which requires their co-operation. I hope incidents like these are very uncommon, otherwise I do not see any future for the Gram Sevaks who are supposed to be the friend, philosopher and guide to the villagers.

Yours etc.
S. S. Sharma
V.L.W.

COMPOST ASSISTANTS

It is reported in the press that a new scheme has been envisaged by the Community Development programme under which compost assistants will be appointed for every Development Block to help ryots in preparing and utilizing organic manure. In view of this new scheme, I suggest that selection for these posts may be made out of the village level workers.. This would serve as one of the channels of promotion to them. Compost preparation is one of the main activities of the Gram Sevaks today and in view of their training and experience, they are quite suited for the post of the Compost Assistants.

Yours etc.
A Village Level Worker
Andhra Pradesh
18-9-57

MY EXPERIENCE

Sir,

After completion of eight months' training in Khadi and Village Industries at Khadi Gramudyog Mahavidyalay, Wardha, and four months' training in small-scale industries at Bombay, I was appointed as an Extension Officer (Industries) for Chanda, Mul and Bhadravati Blocks. Immediately after my appointment, I visited a number of villages in the three Blocks and to my great surprise some of the things which I had been lead to believe during my training, I did not find them true to my actual experience. For instance, I was told in my training period that it is very difficult to convince the village people about the usefulness of the programme. On the contrary, I found that the people were fully aware of all that was happening and the problem of local Gram Sevaks

was that he could not cope up with the increasing demands of the villagers and when I told them about my work, they were very much pleased with the idea of the Government helping the cottage and village industries.

What impressed me was the friendliness and the confidence with which the local Gram Sevaks were regarded by the villagers. There were no doubt a few black sheep among them who had a vested interest in the continued ignorance of the village people. They create trouble sometimes but their opposition to the programme is fast declining against the enthusiasm of majority of the villagers for the programme.

Yours etc.
P. S. Kulkarni,
Extension Officer (Industries)
B. S. Chanda,
Vidarbha.
29-8-57.

ASSISTANTS FOR GRAM SEVAKS

Sir,

For many years now the Gram Sevaks have been making repeated requests for some hands to help them in carrying out their day-to-day work. A Gram Sevak being a multi-purpose worker finds it extremely difficult to attend to all the operations especially during the cropping seasons. He has to conduct demonstration plants, look after the control of crop pests and other diseases besides his routine work which in itself is fairly heavy. A mid-wife appointed under the National Extension Service and Community Development schemes is given an *Aya* with a pay of Rs. 30 per month. Her duties are by no means heavier than those of the Gram Sevaks. When I raised this question of appointing a peon or a seasonal coolie at the block level seminar, I was told that the mid-wife is a specialist and therefore requires an assistant. I feel that the Gram Sevak is also a specialist. He undergoes a training for 18 months for a specific job to which he is appointed later. May I again through your columns plead for the appointment of a peon or a seasonal coolie for a period of 9 months every year so that the much harassed Gram Sevak may be able to look after his duties properly.

Yours etc.,
S. M. Samuel, V.L.W.
Kasigi Block,
Kurnool Distt.
27-9-57.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND PUBLIC CO-OPERATION

Sir,

Permit me to thank our Hon'ble Minister Shri S. K. Dey, for his clarification of the role of a Gram Sevak in the Community Project in the last session of the Parliament. There is no doubt that we come across many difficulties in our day-to-day work but we very well realise that these schemes are bringing a revolution in our village areas and our villagers understand the full importance of the Community Development schemes. I would request most humbly to public leaders through your Journal to help us in our difficult task by trying to get a first-hand experience from the field. I am sure, if our M.P.s take a keener interest in our work, the programme is bound to succeed.

Yours etc.,
Manohar Rao Allagikas,
V.L.W.
Gulbarga-Mysore State.
22-8-57.

RURAL CREDIT

Sir,

Most of our villagers have to go to the private money-lenders for finances by paying heavy interest during the months of scarcity. From my own experience, as a Village Level Worker, I find the terms and conditions on which the loans are advanced by the petty Sahukars are as follows:

1. The villager is required to return one and half times the grains received by him from the Sahukar.
2. In addition to providing 4 labourers to him, manual labour is to be offered to the Sahukar per day per maund of grains the peasant takes on loan. The poor labourer has to agree to all these terms or else starve.

This state of affairs is due to the difficult conditions which have been laid down by our Co-operatives. We must make these farmers credit-worthy by extending them the facilities of rural credit. The multi-purpose credit societies should advance loans to them against the security of their seasonal crops. In the

first year, they should be advanced money according to their capacity and in return grains should be collected for the purpose of establishing grain banks so that next year the farmers could be given grains on loan in their emergency. Unless this is done, our peasants and farmers will continue to be exploited by the village *Banias.*

Your etc.
A Gram Sevak

WHY A CHANGE

Sir,

The very name Gram Sevak is unfortunately treated with contempt in many of the States in India. In many parts, the Harijans are called Gram Sevaks. I am certainly not one of those who feel that there is anything wrong with Harijans or the name Gram Sevak as such but I admit that it creates a sort of inferiority complex in many of our Gram Sevaks. In a Block, we have the S.E.O., the B.D.O. and other Extension officers. If a Gram Sevak is also properly designated, it would help him a great deal in improving his morale.

Yours etc.
A Gram Sevak

PHYSICIAN HEAL THYSELF

Sir,

In his speech at the conference of State Ministers of Information held recently our Prime Minister is reported to have said, "While dealing with the people we are always telling them to be good. Personally my own reaction is to get exceedingly wild if I am told to be good. It is a habit in India of lecturing others to be good. Even if you have to tell them to be good, you have surely to tell them in a way that does not appear that you are lecturing them. That creates a wrong reaction".

Being a Gram Sevak trainee, I really felt the truth of this expression. In our training, we Gram Sevaks are expected to go to the farthest corner of this country to help people in helping themselves. I felt that the duty of a typical Gram Sevak should be of doing a thing himself rather than lecturing about its usefulness to the villagers. If a Gram Sevak takes delight in lecturing to the people, he is sure to get into trouble and may be called 'rich in voice but poor in hands.'

The experience of our Gram Sevaks shows that the village people are not as dumb and speechless as we think they are. They are not pleased with our lectures to teach them to be good. They know that one of the easiest jobs in the world is lecturing. They can perhaps ask us as they very often do, 'Physician heal thyself'.

Yours etc.,
S. Subiah,
Rural Extension Training Centre, Bhawani Sagar.

SHEPHERDS' SHRAMDAN

Sir,

In the village Manwad in Kolhapur we were actively engaged in offering Shramdan on the approach road three miles long. While constructing the road, the villagers reached the boundary of the fields of a shepherd of the village. The work suddenly stopped. When I enquired about the reason, I was told that a portion of the road went through the fields of the shepherd Babu, who refused to part with his portion of the land. "I love this land more than my family members. It gives me livelihood. I have worked hard for months together and got this piece of land under cultivation. I have no land of my own other than this", were his reasons. We felt helpless before his arguments and knew that he meant every word of what he said. All of a sudden the shepherd spoke again. He told us that he did not want to come in the way of the completion of the road and promised to prepare the portion of the road from the other side of his field through waste lands. It was a tremendous task but true to his promise within 15 days, he prepared the road.

Yours etc.
J. A. Khanvilkar,
A Gram Sevak

Panhala NES,
Bombay State,
25-9-57

FELT NEED

Sir,

The important role that the organisations like the Farmers' Unions, and the Young Farmers' League could play in increasing agricultural production programme have not been fully realised by our

THE STORY OF PANCHTANTRA—(2)

THE SNAKE AND THE FROGS

Last month I told you how the stories of Panchtantra originated. Let us today take up the first story which is called 'The Snake and the Frogs'. The story begins like this. There was once an old snake by name 'Slow Poison'. When he became too lazy to work because of his age, he thought of a plan which would give him his daily food without much bother. He went to a pond containing many frogs and pretended to be dejected and weak. As he waited near the pond, a frog saw him and asked him why he was so dejected. "My young friend" the 'Slow Poison' said, "I am greatly worried because a Brahman cursed me this morning. Why should I wish for food now when I have nothing to live for". The young frog became inquisitive and asked for the whole story. "This evening", the 'Slow Poison' continued, "as I was searching for food, I saw a frog and was ready to catch him. As soon as he saw me he escaped among some Brahmans who were having a holy bath. In the water at the edge of the pond, was the toe of a Brahman boy which I took for a frog and I bit it and the boy died immediately. His father cursed me in these words: "Monster ! Since you bit my harmless son, you shall for this sin become a vehicle for frogs, and shall subsist on whatever they choose to allow you. As a result of this curse, I have come here to serve you as your vehicle." The story of the serpent was believed by all the frogs and they rushed in extreme delight to their king whose name was 'Water Foot'. He in turn came hurriedly from the pond along with his Ministers and climbed upon the 'Slow Poison's' hood. Others also in order of age climbed on his back. The 'Slow Poison' with an eye to making his living, showed them fancy turns in great variety. And 'Water Foot', enjoying contact with his body, said to him:

I'd rather ride Slow-Poison than
The finest horse I've seen,
Or elephant, or chariot,
Or man-borne palanquin.

Next day, the 'Slow-Poison' moved very slowly. So 'Water-Foot' said, my dear 'Slow-Poison', why don't you carry us nicely as you did before and the 'Slow-Poison' replied that he could not move fast enough because of lack of food. My dear fellow, the king of Frogs said, "eat the plebian frogs". When the Slow-Poison heard this he began to eat frogs uninterruptedly and in a very few days, grew strong but the 'Water-Foot' did not realise this and was befooled by 'Slow-Poison'. (J.N.B.)

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

(continued on page 18)

field workers. Sufficient importance therefore, has not been attached to this. The first State Level seminars on agriculture and animal husbandry which was held recently at Poona for the first time took up this matter. The seminar was of the opinion that the Farmers' Unions and other organisations like these though small in number deserve encouragement. It was, however, felt that the multiplication of such organizations and the consequent overlapping of their functions should be avoided.

Yours etc.
A Gram Sevak

Bombay
27-8-57

I TELL MY OWN STORY—GUAVA

P. Balasubrahmanyam, Extension Officer (Ag.). (Kurnool)

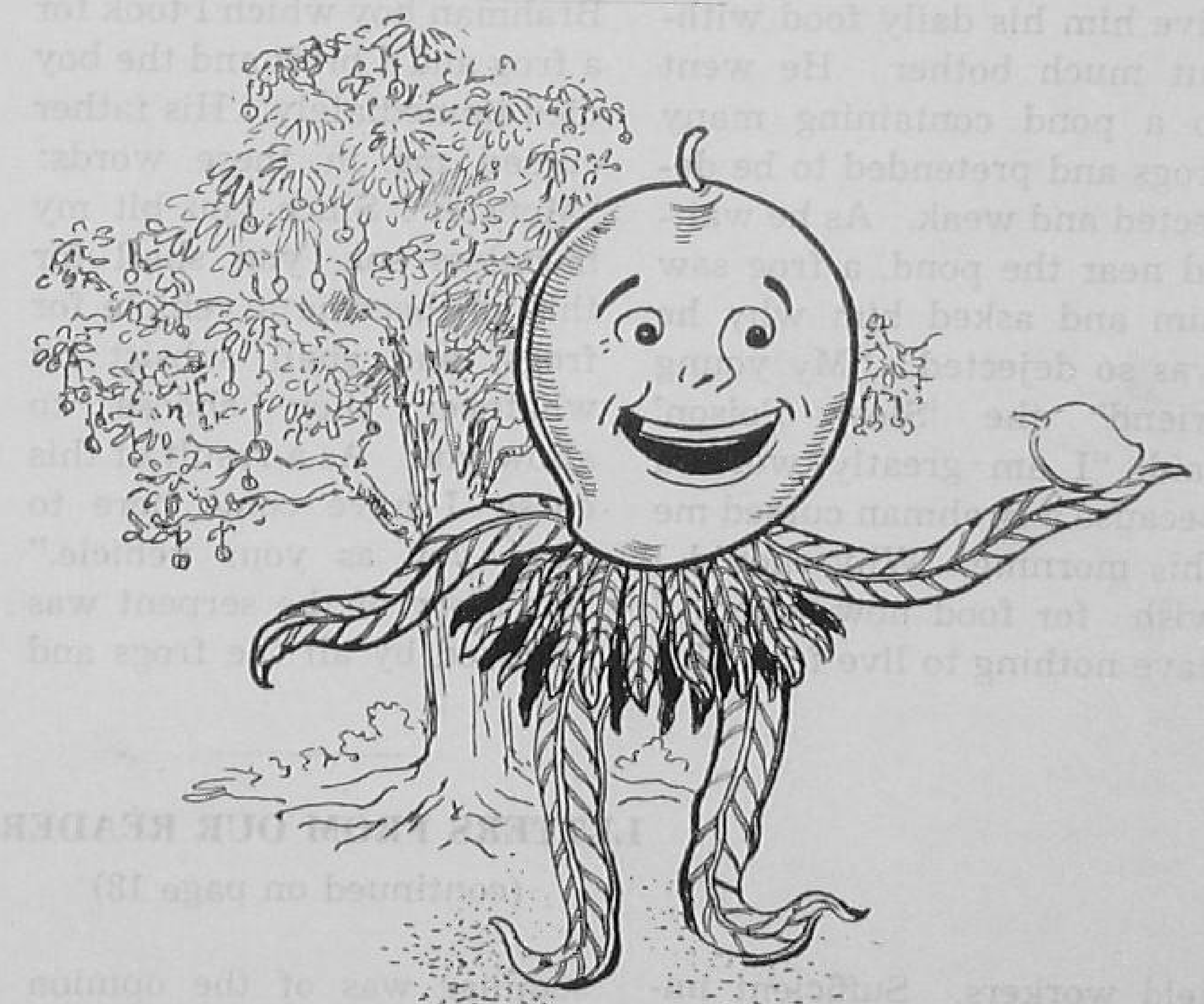
I am a common reputed desert fruit of great nutritive value. My admires refer to me as "The apple of the Tropics". I am prolific in my yields. Still many have yet to exploit my desirable qualities for their betterment.

I am a tropical fruit adaptable to diversified climates and soil. I thrive upto an elevation of 400 ft. My only demand is that soils are drainable. Seminal propagation has been the rule all these years. Lately layering has become popular. I advocate only clonal propagation as you can be sure of your quality or quantity, provided merited mother plants are selected.

My nomenclature and classification yet deserves study. There are a number of seeded and unseeded types amongst us. Smooth green (medium sized, white fleshed and few seeded), Allahabad (largest fruit of pleasant flavour with soft texture, white fleshed and few seeds), Nagpur Seedless (vigorous type, irregular shaped fruit, white fleshed) Lucknow, Saharanpur Seedless are some of the well known varieties amongst us.

My culture has never been attended to. I desire a spacing of 20′×22′. Shallow intercultivation is preferred to deep ploughing. I appreciate systematic manuring as I am a prolific bearer. Growing of a green manure crop and ploughing in, at an occasional dosage of farm yard manure is the practice at present in vogue. But how I wish, I am fed with about 100-120 lb. of farm yard manure besides 1½ to 2 lb. of nitrogen in the shape of cakes or fertilisers (per tree) twice a year. Next my request is not to stop irrigating after first year. Ample supply of moisture will increase the crop and size of fruit. The seedlings yield from fourth year while layers come to yield in the third year. June to August and October to December are fruiting seasons in South India. 150-200 fruits in the first season and 300 to 400 fruits in the second season per tree is very common.

I am rich in vitamins. My pectin content have made my jellies popular. My wood is moderately hard and has even grained texture which makes its conversion into a number of small articles easy. Production and consumption of my cheap fruits will improve the health and wealth of the country. Still dear Gram Sevak, I am shown as a back number among fruits and I have not been given my due place. I hope time will restore my deserved place soon.



MURABBAS & CHUTNEYS

The preservation of fruits in the form of *murabba* and *chutney* has been an age-old practice in India. The history of murabba is linked with indigenous systems of medicine, particularly the *Unani*. During the Moghul rule it received State patronage and flourished considerably.

Fruit preservation, as an industry in its present form, emerged during World War II; total black-out of foreign products gave it the necessary fillip. India now produces a variety of squashes, jams, pickles, *murabbas*, *chutneys*, canned fruits and juices for internal consumption as well as for export. Almost all kinds of fruits and vegetables are preserved. Chief among these are oranges, limes, mangoes, pinapples, guavas, apples, pears, *amlas*, tomatoes and peas.

A visit to a factory in Delhi revealed that the men and women engaged are skilled workers who took but little time to learn the craft. A factory producing these products on a large scale employs 50 to 60 persons. Operations such as washing, peeling and slicing of fruit are particularly suited to women. Men are employed in subsequent processes including operating boilers, syruping, sealing of cans and also operating machinery.

In order to maintain the industry's tempo of development and to ensure the manufacture of standard quality products under hygienic conditions, the Government of India promulgated a Fruit Products Control Order under the Essential Commodities Act of 1955.

Fruit Product Order prescribes minimum standards of quality for various fruit products and lays particular emphasis on proper processing, packing, marking and labelling of the products. Comprehensive specifications, comparable to those in other countries, have been laid down. No factory can now manufacture fruit products unless it obtains a licence from the Government. A strict check on quality of fruit products is maintained by regular inspection of factories by technically qualified staff. Samples of manufactured products are collected from retailers as well as the manufacturers and analysed at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore.

During 1955-56 alone nearly 750 licensed manufacturers produced a total of nearly 20,000 tons of fruit products valued at Rs. 2 crores. Most of these are cottage and small scale manufacturers who cater to local demand. Important centres of production are Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Amritsar, Mathura, Nagpur, Bangalore and Trichur.

Besides meeting the indigenous demand, India exports its fruit products to U.K., U.S.A., West Asian countries, Europe and South-East Asia. Total exports in 1956 were estimated at 1,278 tons valued at approximately Rs. 2.25 million.

The main items of export are *chutneys*, pickles, canned fruits and vegetables. While the export of *chutneys* and pickles has been conventional and can be traced to a date more than a century back, that of canned fruits and vegetables is of recent origin. Due to the high quality of the Indian mango, mango *chutney* has established a good market for itself.

Horticultural schemes incurring a total expenditure of Rs 105 lakhs and aiming at increased production of fruit and vegetable products have been included in the country's development plans. These comprise provision of loans for setting up five large and 200 small-scale units for fruit preservation, a subsidy on tinplate used in the manufacture of packing cans and setting up of five regional research stations. It is expected that the production of fruit products will increase to 50,000 tons by 1960-61.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. *Is there an All-India circular that progress report and other records of Gram Sevaks should be open for public inspection at any time? If so, is it also applicable to all District Officers, Divisional Officers and Block Officers?*

—A Gram Sevak

Ans. There is no All-India circular to the effect that the progress report and other rceords of Gram Sevaks should be open to public inspection at any time. The question whether it is applicable to all District Officers, Divisional Officers and Block Officers does not, therefore, arise.

Q. *What is the nature of work of Group Level Workers? In what subjects are they trained and what is the duration of their training course?*

—M. Venchaveerappa
V.L.W. Bilari
Mysore State

Ans. The duration of the training course of the Group Level Workers is proposed to be of about two months' duration. The main purpose of the training is that the group level workers should be made thoroughly acqainted with the extension method and only general outline of the work in regard to other developmental subjects may be given to the trainees.

The syllabus of the trainees consists of the study of history and nature of Community development programme not only in India but in other countries too. It deals with rural extension services, villagers' participation and social education, importance of extension activities, help and guidance of the lower field worker, agriculture, irrigation problems, Panchayats, animal husbandry, plant protection, co-operatives and so on.

Q. Is the Ministry of Community Development thinking of revising the pay scales of all village level workers to make them uniform throughout India?

Ans. The Ministry of Community Development is not thinking of revising the pay scales of village level workers. This is a subject which concerns the State Governments and they have fixed the pay scales of the VLWs according to the conditions prevailing in their respective States.

Q. Each Gram Sevak is required to maintain records and daily diary of his activities in the villages but why is it that the Government does not supply the necessary stationery and the registers for this purpose?

Ans. Normally a provision is made in every Block for the supply of stationery. It is possible by some chance you have not been able to receive it regularly. You can perhaps get your difficulty removed by approaching your B.D.O.

LAC—The Multi-Purpose

Lac has been used in India from times immemorial for several purposes. In the epic of the Mahabharata, it is recorded that the Kauravas built a palace of lac for their rival cousins Pandavas. Lac-dye is mentioned in the Periplus, written about 80 A.D. In the *Ain-in-Akbari* about 1590, Akbar is said to have made use of the resin for preparing varnish. Today, about 30 to 40 per cent of total output of lac is being consumed for manufacture of gramophone records; the electrical and paint industries utilise about 35 per cent. Other industries using lac include such diverse trades as sealing-wax manufacture, photographic materials, the confectionary trade, munitions, and fireworks, grinding-stones, bangles, toys, etc.

Lac is now becoming increasingly popular as a constituent of adhesives and cement materials due to its property of adhering strongly to smooth surfaces, such as glass, glazed porcelain, metals, mica and others. Therefore you need not necessarily throw away all your broken glass or crockery.

The name 'Lac' seems to have originated from the Sanskrit word 'Lakh'. It means a hundred thousand and no doubt refers to the innumerable insects that take part in secreting the resin. It is the only resin of animal origin scereted by an insect, *Laccifer Lacca*, which feeds on the sap of certain trees, exuding the resin during its life-cycle. Lac is practically an Indian monopoly and is grown over a very wide area, particularly in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

Shellac today is already earning for the country about Rs. 10 crore annually in foreign exchange. At present more than 90 percent of fully or partially refined lac is being exported to countries practically throughout the world. As a result of the latest researches carried out at the Lac Research Institute, Ranchi fresh avenues for the industrial exploitation of this product have vastly increased.

Ammonium Sulphate Does The Trick

Shyam Sunder Das,
Gram Sevak,
N.E.S. Block, Badachana.

VILLAGE Barada, in the heart of Bharatpur Gram Panchayat, Cuttack Distt., consists of 161 families. Most of them depend entirely on cultivation. It was to this village that I was posted immediately after my training.

On 27th June morning I was going round the fields of the village, planning to introduce Japanese method of paddy cultivation. While I was passing by the jute field of Sri Sarangdhar Samal, who was engaged in weeding along with some other labourers, they gazed at me in a peculiar manner. The owner whispered to the other labourers, 'He is the Gram Sevak newly posted to our village and will instruct us on cultivation'. The labourers laughed and said, "What kind of instruction will he give us? Does he know more than what we do?" I heard what they talked and stopped there. I approached them and asked the way to Pallai village, though I knew the way pretty well. The owner in an indifferent mood asked me, 'Are we doing the right method of jute cultivation?"

"Yes" was my immediate reply. "Weeding is very necessary for the standing crop." Then I turned my face to the nearest jute field and said 'Look at that crop? How nicely it has grown! But what has made it so short and thin? The cultivator sorrowfully replied that he has given a little manure and sown late.

'Do you expect a better yield out of your strenuous labour?

'No', he replied.

"Why not? Let us try to do what we can," I said.

The conversation stirred his mind and he eagerly waited for my instruction.

"What is the area of the field?" I enquired.

"Twenty decimals."

"You know that we have started this month a co-operative grain-gola in this panchayat and fertilisers like ammonium sulphate and super phosphate are being sold to the public".

"Yes, I know," he said.

"Well, get four seers of ammonium sulphate and apply after weeding and see that no particles are put on the plant. Transplant some plants in the vacant spaces".

He did accordingly. Again on 16th July, I went to that field and saw satisfactory result in his top dressing but weeds were a menace to the crop. I then approached the cultivator and requested for another weeding. He agreed. On the next day, while he with some labourers were engaged in weeding, I arrived. On seeing me, he gave his compliments.

"What is your estimate on the growth"? I enquired.

"Quite good, I never imagined so!"

"Well, can you apply another dose likewise?"

He agreed and did afterwards.

Nineteen days had passed. I chanced to visit his home to persuade him to become a member of the grain-golla. He welcomed me and became a willing member. I wanted him to take other cultivators to his fields and show them the results. He at once agreed. He called his neighbours and we all went to the Plot. It is not correct for me to mention his praise when he compared his jute field, with the neighbouring one. Other cultivators too were astonished at the luxuriant growth of the plants. Since then I never had any trouble with my village friends in starting anything new in the area.

PEN FRIEND'S LEAGUE

136. *Shri S. Sivasubramanian*, Gram Sevak, Anasadikkuppam, Panruti C.D. Block, Madras State—Intermediate —Interested in Rural economics, agriculture.—Mother Tongue, Tamil

137. *Shri Kanwal Kumar Thapa*, Gram Sevak (Lamatatta), Community Development Block, Rangli—Rangli P.O. Sapchu, Distt. Darjeeling. Matric—Interested in Agricultural Co-operative, Cultural activities and social education programme—mother tongue—Nepali.

138. *Shri Thaty. Panakala Rao*, Gram Sevak, Deverkonda Circle, office of the Village level worker Community Development Block, Block II, Deverkonda, Nalgonda Distt., Andhra Pradesh — B.A.S. — Interested in Pen friendship, gardening, Journalism, fishing, all programmes in social education, folk dances and songs, eradication of caste system, agriculture, co-operation — mother tongue, Telugu.

139. *Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Village Level worker*, N.E.S. Block, Cheria Bariarpur II, P.O. Siripur, Distt. Monghyr (Bihar)—S.S.L.C.—Interested in Drama, Agriculture, music and other public works—Mother tongue, Hindi.

140. *Shri K. M. Puttaswamy*, Gram Sevak, NES Block, Hosanagar, Shimoga Distt. (Mysore State)—Matriculate —Interested in silk weaving, silkmoth rearing, Ayurvedic medicines, folk dances and ancient art.

141. *Shri K. P. Chaubey*, Gram Sevak, C.D. Block, Gharghoda Distt. Raigarh (M.P.), I.A. Standard—Interested in studying human nature, philosophy, essay writing and poem composing, photography, organisation of youth clubs, libraries, social and cultural activities — Mother tongue, Hindi.

142. *Shri S. J. Samuel*, Gramsevak, Coyalmannam (Coyalmannam N.E.S. Block) Palghat Dt. Keralam, S.S.L.C.—Interested in Organisation works, welfare of Gram-Sevaks, agriculture, poultry, animal husbandry, football, hockey, badminton—Mother tongue, Malayalam.

143. Shri *Mewalal Saha*, V.L.W. (Trainee), Extension Training Centre, Ranchi, P.O. Signal (Ranchi)—Matriculate—Interested in agriculture, social education and story writing — Mother tongue, Bengali.

144 *Shri K. M. Bhatnagar*, Gram Sevak, Karod, P.O. Barrangarh, Dist. Guna NES Block Guna M.P.—Matric—Interested in social work, group discussions, lectures and reading.—Mother tongue, Hindi.

145. *Y. Shermus Sahib*, V.L.W., Kappalakonda (Post), Anantapur (Tq.), Anantapur (Dt.), Andhra Pradesh, passed Secondary school, Rashtra Bhasha in Hindi, Interested in gardening, sanitation of village, development of Hindi Mother tongue, Urdu.

Entire population of an Assam village engaged in building a new road.

Group discussion resolves many problems easily.

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